

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
MAY 18, 2010
7:00 PM**

Mayor McHale called the meeting to order

Flag Salute; Silent Prayer

Sunshine Law: The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey have been satisfied by the inclusion of the date, time and place of this regular meeting in the annual schedule and notice of regular meetings of this Governing Body. Such annual schedule and notice of regular meetings is posted at Borough Hall, was sent to *The Record* and the *Press Journal*, posted on the Borough website and filed with the Borough of Dumont on January 5, 2010.

Roll Call: Council members Caspare, Freeman, Manna, Stylianou-present
Council members Carrick and Zamechansky-absent (excused)

Mayor McHale-present

Also present- Borough Auditor Gary Vinci

Mayor McHale explained that there are changes to the agenda:

The resolution to certify the school tax levy has been pulled from the agenda and will be considered tomorrow night at 6:00 PM at an emergency meeting. Council members Caspare and Manna have had to recuse themselves due to conflicts. Councilwoman Zamechansky had a family obligation tonight and Councilman Carrick is stuck in New York at work. Therefore, there are not enough members to vote on that particular resolution.

In addition, Resolution #10-146 has been moved to the non-consent agenda.

Motion to accept agenda as presented: Councilman Stylianou

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

A Proclamation was presented by Mayor McHale to the Shade Tree Commission-Arbor Day and Tree City U.S.A.

The Oath of Office was administered by Mayor McHale to Recreation Commissioners and Shade Tree Commissioners

General Order of Business

Municipal Budget Hearing

The Mayor explained that this is a very preliminary budget. He doesn't expect the municipal budget to be ready for adoption prior to July.

Councilman Manna, Chairman of the Finance Committee, stated that as the committee went through the budgetary process they determined they were about \$153,000 short of being in line. State aid was reduced by 20.4% which translated into a \$340,729 cut. This meant there was a shortage of \$494,000. This is what they had to work with for the creation of the introduction of the budget. This would result in a levy of

\$237.00 for a house assessed at \$382,000. There are a number of options being considered including a 5-10% reduction in each department's budget, furloughs, salary freezes and layoffs, which the committee would like to avoid if possible. The garbage contracts being voted on tonight will save the Borough money compared to the previous contract.

Motion to open to the public on the municipal budget: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Stylianou

All in favor.

1. Karen DeMarco-64 Ontario Street-asked about the recently signed contract for the Police Department. She asked if they could be requested to take a pay freeze.
2. Kai Chen-90 Teak Road-stated that the Council suggested cuts by the Board of Education down to a tax levy of \$2.5% or \$147.00 per household. He stated that, in his opinion, the municipal tax rate should be reduced from .754 to .709 or \$65 per average household.

Motion to close: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Caspare

All in favor.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the April 21, 2010 Executive Meeting minutes: Councilman Stylianou

Second: Councilman Manna

Roll call vote: Council members Caspare, Freeman, Manna, Stylianou-yes

Motion to approve the April 21, 2010 Public Meeting minutes: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Stylianou

Roll call vote: Council members Caspare, Freeman, Manna, Stylianou-yes

Motion to approve the April 21, 2010 Closed Session minutes: Councilman Stylianou

Second: Councilman Caspare

Roll call vote: Council members Caspare, Freeman, Manna, Stylianou-yes

Approval of the May 11, 2010 Closed Session minutes: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Stylianou

Roll call vote: Council members Freeman, Manna, Stylianou-yes

Councilman Caspare-abstained

Approval of the May 11, 2010 Executive Session minutes: Councilman Stylianou

Second: Councilman Manna

Roll call vote: Council members Freeman, Manna, Stylianou-yes

Councilman Caspare-abstained

Administrator Perkins' Report

There will be a final meeting with FEMA regarding the March, 2010 storm.
Hopefully, the Borough will receive a 75% refund.

The Intersection should reopen by Friday.

The Seniors can enroll in a County prescription plan.

The Court will receive a new computer and monitor from the County Court at no charge to the Borough.

The Borough's Clean Community grant will be increased to \$25, 422.

The Lightning Detection System will be installed the end of next week.

The Recycling contract will be awarded tonight at a savings of \$188,000 from last year. The Borough will own the recycling this contract and will mean revenue. Therefore, the recycling ordinance will be strictly enforced.

The DPW has been accepting motor oil from residents. Someone dropped off contaminated oil so waste oil is no longer being accepted.

Mr. Perkins was requested to be part of closed session panel for the State to discuss critical issues facing New Jersey.

Mayor's Report

Mayor McHale announced that Moody's, the bond investment ratings agency has upgraded the borough from Baa1 to A1, which is three jumps in our credit rating. With this new credit rating in the current market, if the Borough wanted to consolidate its current notes it would mean a savings of approximately \$1,000,000. It has taken about five years to get to this point.

Council Committee Reports

- Councilman Stylianou

5K Run Committee

The next meeting will take place May 24th. There will be a pre-race pasta dinner, which is fully sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Net proceeds will go to Dumont families who are struggling due to recent tragedies. Volunteers are needed.

Resolution & Ordinance Committee

The primary discussion has been "pay to play" reform. The members of the committee-Council members Manna, Carrick and Stylianou attended a seminar which was very informative.

- Councilman Manna

Chamber of Commerce

Council members Manna and Zamechansky and Administrator Perkins attended their meeting. They are having decals made for participating members to display.

Finance

He, Borough Auditor Vinci and CFO Giotis met with representatives of the Bergen County Improvement Authority. They are considering consolidating notes in order to save the Borough money. The improvement of the Borough's rating is a tremendous accomplishment.

The blackout period has now ended. The Finance Committee will now meet to discuss ideas. They had two public meetings-one at the Senior Center, which was attended by approximately thirty residents and one at Borough Hall, which was attended by Mr. Chen.

Police

The Dispatch Center received a total of 7,363 telephone calls in April. There were 100 requests for medical aid, which were responded to.

The Detective Bureau investigated 47 criminal cases.

There was a letter of commendation from a resident, who expressed her gratitude for the manner in which the Police responded to her sickly parents.

- Councilman Caspare

Fire Department

There were a total of 32 alarms and 859 man hours in April

- Councilman Freeman

The school budget committee met with the Board of Education committee. The \$1.5 million cut has been decreased to \$1million. This will result in a net savings with no further cuts. This is due to the fact that there is a memorandum of agreement from the teachers, which will result in a savings of \$792,500. When the janitor's agreement, which saves \$146,000 and retirements, which save \$125,000 is added to that there is a total savings of \$1,063,500. This result is a net savings of \$63,500. The Councilman read a letter being sent to the Board of Education:

"Dear Board Members:

Based upon our conversation last night, there will be approximately \$63,500 in savings available to the Board of Education. This letter shall confirm that the \$63,500 will be used to reinstate programs previously cut. Retirements which occur after today and before the beginning of this upcoming school year will result in additional savings. As per our discussion last evening, this shall further confirm that the use of any savings generated from retirements will be used to reinstate programs previously cut. Please call me immediately if the above does not accurately summarize the agreed-upon understanding".

The Board of Education will hold a meeting May 27th. Residents can now lobby to have programs reinstated rather than to prevent programs from being cut.

Mayor McHale asked the figure for the school tax per average household to which Councilman Freeman responded \$238.00.

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Stylianou

Second: Councilman Freeman

All in favor.

1. Madeline Schiralli-100 Sunset Street-asked whether traffic on Sunset will be alleviated once the intersection is open.
2. Lisa Horton-204 New Milford Avenue-asked if all day kindergarten is still intact.
3. Mary Gilmore-26 Fleetwood Road-stated that Emerson's school budget was defeated and they were able to bring their budget back to 2009 levels.
4. Brendan Cervantes-35 Monroe Avenue-stated that he feels the schools should be kept the way they are.
5. Kai Chen-90 Teak Road-asked for specifics as to what was cut and the % of tax levy.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Freeman

All in favor.

Motion to recess for five minutes: Councilman Stylianou

Second: Councilman Freeman

All in favor.

Review of Consent Agenda Items: All items with an asterisk are considered to be non-controversial by the Council and will be approved by one motion. There may be further discussion prior to the vote upon request of a member of the public or a Council member. Also, any item may be removed for further discussion or for roll call vote in which case

the item will be removed and considered in its normal sequence as part of the general order of business.

RESOLUTIONS

#10-140 Bills List *

#10-141 Benjamin Guzman-Accept Application as Member of Dumont Fire Department Company 1*

#10-142 Michael Stevens-Accept Application as Member of Dumont Fire Auxiliary with Company 3 *

#10-143 Award of Bid for Solid Waste Collection-5 years-\$2,098,700 *

#10-144 Award of Bid for Recycling-5 years-\$761,000 *

#10-145 Award of Quote for Borough Website-2 years with 2 year renewal option-not to exceed \$13,000 *

#10-147 Protest Against Governor Christie's Budget for the New Jersey Library Network *

#10-148 Protest Against A2555 Which Will Eliminate the Dedicated 1/3 Mil Funding for Municipal Libraries *

#10-149 Appointment of Paul Campbell to Library Board of Trustees *

#10-150 Approval of Change Order #1-Howard Street Improvements-negative \$146,164.20 *

#10-151 "Scleroderma Awareness" Month-June, 2010 *

#10-152 Cub Scout Road Closure May 30, 2010 and Rename Pershing Street "Cub Scout Way" and Charles Street "Webelos Way" for the Weekend *

#10-153 Resolution Authorizing Institution of Municipal Lien for Property Maintenance *

#10-154 Authorization of Grant Agreement for Barrier-Free Doors at Dixon Library and Dumont Senior Center *

#10-155 Approval of Block Party on Patton Place August 7, 2010 *

#10-156 Self-Examination of Dumont Municipal Budget *

#10-157 Approval of Temporary Capital Budget Amendment of 2010 *

Motion to adopt: Councilman Freeman

Second: Councilman Manna

Councilman Freeman explained that the aggregate number was actually more than separating Solid Waste Collection and Recycling.

Mr. Paster stated that the Borough is saving a great deal of money compared to the last contract.

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Stylianou

Second: Councilman Freeman

All in favor.

1. Karen DeMarco-64 Ontario Street-asked who the website contract is being awarded to and asked the amount of the total contract. She also asked who was awarded the Solid Waste contract.
2. Kai Chen-90 Teak Road-asked for an explanation of Resolution #153.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Freeman

Second: Councilman Stylianou

All in favor.

Roll call vote: Council members Caspare, Freeman, Manna, Stylianou-yes
Motion carried.

Non-Consent Agenda

#10-146 Support of Millionaire's Fair Tax Legislation

Motion to adopt: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Caspare

#10-158 Authorization of Advertisement of Bid for Monopole at Borough DPW Site

Motion to adopt: Councilman Stylianou

Second: Councilman Manna

Motion to open to the public on both items: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Stylianou

All in favor.

1. Kai Chen-90 Teak Road-asked what the height of the monopole would be.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Freeman

All in favor.

Councilman Freeman addressed Resolution #146-he stated that Maryland tried to increase the tax rate on millionaire households. However, an analysis found that they actually lost revenue because people moved to other states.

Mayor McHale stated that this tax has been in place for a number of years and that the schools and municipalities have substantial reductions in state aid.

Roll call vote on Resolution #146: Council members Caspare, Manna, Stylianou-yes

Councilman Freeman-no

Motion carried.

Roll call vote on Resolution #158: Council members Freeman, Manna, Stylianou-yes

Councilman Caspare-abstain

Motion carried.

ORDINANCES

Second Reading

#1409 Bond Ordinance amending in its entirety bond ordinance no. 1364 adopted April 16, 2008 entitled: "Bond Ordinance providing for various general improvements appropriating \$652,000 therefor and authorizing the issuance of \$619,400 bonds and/or notes of the Borough for paying the cost thereof and making the down payment for said improvements, authorized to be undertaken in and by the Borough of Dumont, in the County of Bergen, New Jersey"

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilman Stylianou

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Freeman

All in favor.

Motion to close: Councilman Stylianou

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

Motion to adopt on second reading: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Freeman

Roll call vote: Council members Caspare, Freeman, Manna, Stylianou-yes
Motion carried.

First Reading

#1380 Bond Ordinance providing for open park improvements, providing an appropriation of \$600,000 therefor and authorizing the issuance of \$289,000 bonds and/or notes of the Borough for paying the cost of said improvements authorized to be undertaken in and by the Borough of Dumont, in the County of Bergen, New Jersey
This ordinance is being reintroduced due to an error on the part of the State.

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilman Stylianou

Second: Councilman Caspare

All in favor.

Motion to adopt on first reading: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Caspare

Roll call vote: Council members Caspare, Freeman, Manna, Stylianou-yes

Motion carried.

#1410 Ordinance to Permanently Change the Name of “Babe Ruth Field” to “Veteran’s Memorial Field”

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilman Caspare

Second: Councilman Manna

Motion to adopt on first reading: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Stylianou

Roll call vote: Council members Caspare, Freeman, Manna, Stylianou-yes

Motion carried.

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Stylianou

All in favor.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Freeman

All in favor.

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Freeman

Second: Councilman Stylianou

All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Susan Connelly, RMC
Borough Clerk